

I. AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Claims 1-4 (cancelled)

Claim 5 (original) A method of treating dry eye in a postmenopausal patient, said method comprising incorporating nucleic acid into an *in situ* ocular cell under conditions permissive for the uptake of said nucleic acid, said nucleic acid encoding a protein having the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO:2, whereby said nucleic acid is expressed and said disease is treated thereby.

Claim 6 (currently amended) The method of claim 65, wherein said nucleic acid sequence consists essentially of the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO:1

Claim 7 (currently amended) The method of claim 76, wherein said cell is a conjunctival or corneal epithelial cell

Claim 8 (currently amended) The method of claim 87, wherein said cell is debrided prior to introducing said ~~exogenous~~ nucleic acid.

Claim 9 (original) The method of claim 6, wherein said nucleic acid is in a viral vector.

Claim 10 (original) The method of claim 6, wherein said nucleic acid is in a plasmid.

Claim 11 (original) The method of claim 10, wherein said nucleic acid is in a retrovirus.

Claim 12 (original) The method of claim 10, wherein said nucleic acid is in an adeno virus.

Claim 13 (original) The method of claim 10, wherein said nucleic acid is in an adeno-associated virus.

Claim 14 (original) A method of treating dry eye in a postmenopausal patient, said method comprising incorporating nucleic acid into an *in situ* ocular cell under conditions permissive for the uptake of said nucleic acid, said nucleic acid encoding a protein having the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO:4, whereby said nucleic acid is expressed and said disease is treated thereby.

Claim 15 (currently amended) The method of claim ~~15~~¹⁴, wherein said nucleic acid consists essentially of the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO:3.

Claim 16 (currently amended) The method of claim ~~16~~¹⁵, wherein said cell is a conjunctival or corneal epithelial cell.

Claim 17 (currently amended) The method of claim ~~7~~¹⁶, wherein said cell is debrided prior to introducing said ~~exogenous~~ nucleic acid.

Claim 18 (original) The method of claim 15, wherein said nucleic acid is in a viral vector.

Claim 19 (original) The method of claim 15, wherein said nucleic acid is in a plasmid.

Claim 20 (original) The method of claim 19, wherein said nucleic acid is in a retrovirus.

Claim 21 (original) The method of claim 19, wherein said nucleic acid is in an adenovirus.

Claim 22 (original) The method of claim 19, wherein said nucleic acid is in an adeno-associated virus.